

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicants would like to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephone interview held on December 3, 2003. In accordance with the discussions held during the interview, Applicants have amended the Specification and claims in the expectation that the amendments will place this application in condition for allowance. In particular, Applicants agreed to, and believe that they have, amended all instances of non-complying sequence nomenclature and have made it clear that claim 1 does not claim the sequence "AA" of the sequence "PP" at positions 25 and 26 of SEQ ID NO: 1. It was agreed that such amendments would place the application in condition for allowance.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 4-6, 9-10, and 12 have been previously canceled, leaving claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11, and 13-14 remaining. Claims 1, 3, and 11 have been amended in the expectation that the amendments will place this application in condition for allowance.

The amendments do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Basis for the claim amendments is found on page 3, line 18 to page 5, line 23; in claims 1-14 as originally filed; and elsewhere throughout the specification and claims. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, and 112, recognizing the novelty of the inventive subject matter.

1. Sequence Listing Requirement Compliance

The Office Action requires compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825, for the following reasons:

Applicant's have chosen to amend their specification and claims with reference to a new generic SEQ ID NO. Claim 1 lacks appropriate reference to the SEQ ID NO, (SEQ ID NO: 1). In addition the specification and claims apparently require amendment so as to incorporate the changes within the sequence listing. For example, previous SEQ ID NO: 1 now appears to be SEQ ID NO:2, etc. Correction is required such that all sequences are

referred to by their appropriate SEQ ID NO. In addition, the Examiner notes that the new generic sequence in claim 1, (SEQ ID NO: 1) apparently lacks the addition of the second "X" after "X3" as represented in the claim. Further Applicants are cautioned that the representation of the sequences within SEQ ID NO: 1 appears to newly represent species where the sequence includes "PP" or "AA" where such support is not apparent from the specification. Applicants may wish to provide support to the new generic sequence and/or to provide separate generic sequences where the "A" and "P" are fixed to either "AP" or "PA".

Applicants have amended the Specification and claims to harmonize the SEQ ID numbers found in the amended Sequence Listing filed on September 16, 2003 with those stated in the Specification and claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for her helpful comments regarding the potential new matter issue relating to SEQ ID NO: 1, and have amended claim 1 to insert a proviso to exclude the "PP" and "AA" variants at positions 25 and 26, which are properly limited to "AP" and "PA". Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments to the Specification and claims resolve all grounds of non-compliance stated in the Notice to Comply, and thus a new Sequence Listing is not filed at this time.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the requirement for compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825, and allow the application. In particular, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections to remaining claims 1, 3, 7-8, 11, and 13-14, and allow all pending claims presented herein for reconsideration.

Attorney Docket No. 24930
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Favorable action with an early allowance of the claims pending in this application is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned attorney if she has any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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